

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAHORE 00501 101147Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
PC-01 OMB-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00
MCT-01 /072 W

-----101155Z 113038 /42

O 100930Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL LAHORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1270
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL KARACHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAHORE 0501

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION: ARMY SHOOTS AGAIN

REF: LAHORE 0488

1. ARMY TROOPS OPENED FIRE ON OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATORS
IN LAHORE MAY 9, SECOND TIME IN LESS THAN A WEEK FORCE
HAS BEEN USED TO QUELL ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTESTS. ACCORD-
ING TO GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS, UNRULY CROWD FORMED
A PROCESSION NEAR LOHARI AREA OF OLD CITY DURING TWO-
HOUR CURFEW BREAK IN LATE AFTERNOON AND STARTED SHOUTING
SLOGANS. (IT WAS RUMORED EARLIER IN DAY THAT SMALL
GROUPS OF PNA WORKERS DEMONSTRATED PEACEFULLY AT THREE
DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN CITY.) WHEN MARCHERS REACHED
NEARBY DATA GANJ BAKHSH SQUARE, ARMY ORDERED THEM TO
DISPERSE, BUT THEY REFUSED AND BEGAN THROWING STONES.
SOME OF THEM GATECRASHED A SCHOOL BUILDING AND ATTACKED
ARMY GUARDS LOCATED THERE. WARNING SHOTS WERE FIRED
IN THE AIR, BUT THE CROWD REPORTEDLY GREW MORE MENACING.
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MOMENTS LATER TROOPS OPENED FIRE IN "SELF-DEFENSE",
WOUNDING FIVE PERSONS INCLUDING A PASSER-BY. PORTIONS
OF THE CITY REMAIN UNDER CURFEW FOR THE FIFTH STRAIGHT
DAY.

2. VIOLENT PROTESTS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUE
ELSEWHERE IN CONSULAR DISTRICT. ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE

SOURCE FROM GUJRANWALA, THOUSANDS OF OPPOSITION SUPPORTERS OVER THE PAST WEEKEND CARRIED OUT SUCCESSIVE DEMONSTRATIONS THERE, WHICH POLICE HAD TO REPULSE WITH TEAR GAS AND LATHI CHARGES. SCHOOL CHILDREN ALSO MARCHED. AT ONE POINT THEY STOPPED AN ARMY VEHICLE ON THE GRAND TRUNK HIGHWAY AND MADE THE SOLDIERS ON BOARD SHOUT SLOGANS AGAINST BHUTTO BEFORE THEY LET IT PASS. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT DEMONSTRATIONS, SOME OF THEM VIOLENT, ARE BEING HELD IN LYALLPUR, MULTAN AND OTHER TOWNS.

3. CONGEN IS OPERATING AT REDUCED LEVEL BECAUSE MANY LOCAL EMPLOYEES LIVE IN CURFEW AREAS AND CANNOT GET TO WORK. HOWEVER, CONSULAR SECTION IS OPEN AND COMMISSARY/ HEALTH UNIT CONTINUE TO SERVICE THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY. AMERICAN CENTER, LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN AREA UNDER CURFEW, HAS BEEN CLOSED SINCE MAY 6. PAO IS CARRYING ON WITH SKELETON STAFF OF FIVE TO HANDLE PAPERWORK. DESPITE CURFEW, ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN IN PRESS AND CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY ABOUT POLITICAL/SECURITY SITUATION, MORALE REMAINS HIGH. GAMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LAHORE00501
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770164-0703
Format: TEL
From: LAHORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770575/aaaacmpf.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 45184597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LAHORE 488
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2585471
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY SITUATION: ARMY SHOOTS AGAIN
TAGS: PINT, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/45184597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009